ELECTORAL PALACE AT COBLENTZ.

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The picturesque edifice which forms the subject of our engraving is adjacent to the Moselle bridge at Coblentz, and close to the confluence of that river and the Rhine. Its architecture is characterized by that freedom from strictness of style, and general adherence to rule, which marked the continental buildings of the latter end of the fifteenth century, and which allowed any combination of parts provided the general effect was gorgeous. Thus classic forms were tampered with and modified until they combined with the enrichments of the Gothic era, and a style bearing traces of multifarious parts borrowed from all sources, and fitly styled from its generalization of all—the *Renaissance*, was for a considerable period the favourite one adopted.

However much the artist may be pleased with the picturesque effects of such buildings, the architect but rarely applauds them, except when the style is used for buildings of a strictly decorative character, or for enriched interiors. Many of the details in the building here engraved are of much beauty. The bay window is exceedingly picturesque, and so are the turrets on the upper angles; such turrets are very common in Cologne, and some fine examples may be seen in the principal streets; they are frequently supported on arches springing from pillars standing free of the wall, their bases resting on sculptured corbels, and are very agreeable to the eye when they abut on the corners of streets, as they break that stiffness of line so common in those of our own country. They are reminiscences of a mode of building adopted in less secure times.

FREEMASONS OF THE CHURCH.

On Tuesday evening we attended a meeting of this society, in their rooms in Carlisle-street, Soho. Sir Walter James, Bart., was in the chair, and many curious works of art were exhibited. A paper, on the tomb of Robert Bruce, competitor for the crown of Scotland, by Mr. W. Downing Bruce, was read. The tomb was of a tabular form, of fine blue marble, and stood with the east end against a wall, probably near the high altar, in Gisborough Priory, Yorkshire. It had no recumbent figure upon it. The upper slab is now separated from the tomb, and used as the altar-table in the parish church; it is 9½ feet and 1 inch long, and 3 feet 9 inches broad, and 9 inches thick. The tomb in the centre is 8 feet 6 inches long, and 2 feet 2 inches high; the base, still attached to the tomb, is 10 inches thick. The west end, given by Dugdale, but now destroyed, represented the competitor in royal robes, with the Scottish crown on his head, having established his right to wear it; holding in his right hand a sceptre, and in his left a shield, bearing the royal arms of Scotland, a lion rampant within an orle floy counter-floy; and above him two shields, one the arms of the elder branch, resident at Skelton, the other, those of the Annandale family. The south and north sides were removed into the parish church, and fixed in the seats near the west door, one on each side the passage. At the rebuilding of the church, about sixty years ago, these remains of antiquity were built into the porch, or lower part of the tower; that which was the south part of the monument is on the north side, still fronting the south, and that which was on the north part, on the opposite side. On each side of the tomb are five large niches, trefoiled in the head, and slightly panelled at the back, in each of which is a figure in armour, holding a shield. Between the large niches are small ones, also trefoil headed, reaching two-thirds up the side, containing figures of ecclesiastics. Above each small niche is a shield. By the heads of the large niches are formed ten spandrils, filled with various devices. The figures contained in the small niches are much mutilated.

Mr. J. Wykeham Archer then read a very interesting paper on portions of ancient London, illustrative of a series of capital sketches, made by himself for Mr. Twopenny's collection: we shall give this in full in our next number.

The Chairman informed the meeting, that in consequence of steps taken by the college, the ancient iron railing, belonging to certain tombs in Westminster Abbey, was to be put up again. The Honorary Secretary, Mr. W. P. Griffith, having announced a paper on masonry, by Mr. Malleott, the meeting was adjourned.

The Army and Navy Club Competition.—In reply to several correspondents, who consider a circular recently issued by the committee somewhat ambiguous, we have enabled ourselves to state, that the elevations are to be in outline only, as specified in the first conditions. The perspective view may be tinted in Indian ink or sepia. The object of the circular is to prevent the execution of perspective views in colours, as such will not be admissible.

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